

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2013

TO: MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FROM: T&ES STAFF

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM # 6 - STAFF UPDATES

ISSUE: Staff update to Transportation Commission on various ongoing projects

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive the staff update.

A. CRYSTAL CITY / POTOMAC YARD (ROUTE 1) TRANSITWAY

The City received a grant for the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway totaling \$8.5 million. The grant was allocated to the design/build of the Route 1 Transitway between Monroe Avenue and Potomac Avenue in dedicated lanes. Five other grants have been received to aid in the design/construction of various elements within the transitway project. The total cost of the transitway including vehicles is approximately \$20 million.

Construction began in July 2012 on the transitway and is anticipated to be completed in December 2013. Heavy and hazardous materials have been found on-site during excavation. The contractor is working with the City to dispose of them materials correctly.

In the first three weeks of February, work will be dependent on the weather, but continued construction related to the widening of Route 1 between Potomac Avenue and Howell Avenue is anticipated. Further widening of Route 1 is necessary to allow for sufficient area in the median to construct two stations on the north side of Potomac Avenue. In addition, the installation of storm structures will be placed in the area between Potomac Avenue and Swann Avenue and the roadway sub-base will begin to be placed. The first concrete pour of the transitway may occur in late February.

Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) has approved the City's proposal in relation to the DVP 230kv underground transmission line located in the transition area at the north end of the dedicated lanes. The proposal utilizes a portion of the existing flowable thermal backfill as subbase. The road will be raised slightly north of East Glebe Road, but there will be no impacts to the intersection of East Glebe and Route 1. A small retaining wall (up to 2-feet in height) will be required along the property line at the southeast corner of the Target Parking lot.

A docket item will be presented at the February 12, 2013 City Council meeting to authorize

the City's Purchasing Agent to approve change orders up to a total of \$13 million for the design and construction of the transitway and stations.

B. POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION

The Potomac Yard Metro project is an infill Metrorail station to be located between the National Airport and Braddock Road Metrorail stations on the Blue and Yellow lines in the vicinity of the Potomac Yard Development.

The development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project is currently underway. The project team is advancing the socioeconomic, environmental, and transportation impact assessments for the no build and three build alternatives. The DEIS is due for public release in Spring 2013 and anticipated for a Record of Decision in early 2014.

The Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Working Group (PYMIG) met on January 30, 2013 to present the remaining impacts of the three build alternatives. The next meeting of PYMIG is scheduled for April 17, 2013 from 6:30-8:30 in the Council Workroom in City Hall. The City will present funding plans for each of the build alternatives.